

REMARKS

Claims 2, 15, 31, 44, 48, 50, and 62 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 3-14, 16-30, 32-43, 45-47, 49, 51-61 and 63-65 are pending in the application.

The Office objected to the abstract of the disclosure for being too long and containing inappropriate language. The abstract has been replaced now with a shorter, descriptive 'plain English' version.

The Office objected to claims 26, 53, and 57 for various informalities. Claim 26 has been amended now to depend from claim 19 and claims 53 and 57 have been amended now to depend from claim 49.

The Office rejected claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 12-14, 16-21, 23, 24, 26, 30, 32-34, 49-52, 54, 55, 57, 60, 61, and 63-65 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,769,500.

Independent claims 1, 19, and 49 have been amended now to include limitations similar to claim 31, which was found allowable by the Office if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Specifically claim 1 has been amended now to include all the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 15, independent claim 19 has been amended now to include all the limitations of dependent claim 31, and independent claim 49 has been amended now to include the limitations of dependent claims 50 and 62.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that independent claims 1, 19, and 49 as amended are allowable and respectfully request allowance of these claims over the above reference.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Claims 2, 15, 31, 44, 50 and 62 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant believes that pending dependent claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12-14, 16-18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 30, 32-34, 51, 52, 54, 55, 57, 60, 61, and 63-65 are now allowable over the above reference, and therefore respectfully request that these claims be allowed.

The Office rejected claims 1-7, 9, 12-14, 16-24, 26, 29, 30, 32-34, 49-55, 57, 60, 61, and 63-65 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2,332,461.

Independent claims 1, 19, and 49 have been amended now to include limitations similar to claim 31, which was found allowable by the Office if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Specifically claim 1 has been amended now to include all the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 15, independent claim 19 has been amended now to include all the limitations of dependent claim 31, and independent claim 49 has been amended now to include the limitations of dependent claims 50 and 62.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that independent claims 1, 19, and 49 as amended are allowable and respectfully request allowance of these claims over the above reference.

Claims 2, 15, 31, 48, 50, and 62 have been canceled. Applicant believes that pending dependent claims 3-7, 9, 12-14, 16-18, 20-24, 26, 29, 30, 32-34, 51-55, 57, 60, 61, and 63-65 are now allowable over the above reference, and therefore respectfully request that these claims be allowed.

The Office rejected claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 12-21, 23, 26, 29-34, 49-52, 54, 55, 57, and 60-65 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0515780.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Independent claims 1, 19, and 49 have been amended now to include limitations similar to claim 31, which was found allowable by the Office if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Specifically claim 1 has been amended now to include all the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 15, independent claim 19 has been amended now to include all the limitations of dependent claim 31, and independent claim 49 has been amended now to include the limitations of dependent claims 50 and 62.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that independent claims 1, 19, and 49 as amended are allowable and respectfully request allowance of these claims over the above reference.

Claims 2, 15, 31, 48, 50, and 62 have been canceled. Applicant believe that pending dependent claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12-14, 16-18, 20, 21, 23, 26, 29, 30, 32-34, 51, 52, 54, 55, 57, and 60-65 are now allowable over the above reference, and therefore respectfully request that these claims be allowed.

The Office rejected claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-21, 23-30, 32-43, 45-52, 54-61, and 63-65 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 6,357,540.

Independent claims 1, 19, 35, and 49 have been amended now to include limitations similar to claim 31, which was found allowable by the Office if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended now to include all the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 15, independent claim 19 has been amended now to include all the limitations of dependent claim 31, independent claim 35 has been amended now to include the limitations dependent claim 44, and independent claim 49 has been amended now to include the limitations of dependent claims 50 and 62.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that amended independent claims 1, 19, 35, and 49 as amended are allowable and respectfully request allowance of these claims over the above reference.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Claims 2, 15, 31, 48, 50, and 62 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 3, 4, 6-14, 16-18, 20, 21, 23-30, 32-34, 36-43, 45-47, 51, 52, 54-61, and 63-65 are now allowable over the above reference, and therefore respectfully request that these claims be allowed.

Claim 31 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claim 19 has been amended now to include all the limitations of original claim 31 and any intervening claims, and claim 31 has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of amended claim 19.

The Office did not comment on claim 44 in the Action. However, Applicant believes that given the similarity of the limitations between claim 44 and allowable claim 31 (as discussed above), independent claim 35 has also been rewritten now to include all the limitations of the dependent claim 44 and any intervening claims, and claim 44 has been canceled.

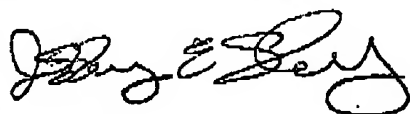
Accordingly, Applicant believes that amended independent claim 35 is allowable and respectfully requests allowance of this claim.

In view of the amendments and arguments made herein, Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims in the application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Please charge Deposit Account No. 180584 in the amount of \$120, the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1) for a one month extension for time. It is believed that there are no other fees due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 180584. If there are any questions concerning the above, please contact the undersigned at (281) 878-5658.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffery E. Daly
Reg. No. 44,640
Grant Prideco, L.P.
400 N. Sam Houston Prkwy East
Suite 900
Houston, TX 77060
Ph: 281-878-5658
Fax: 281-878-5720
e-mail: jeffery.daly@grantprideco.com

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

12/16/05

Date

Signature

